R E M A R K S

Claim 1 has been amended so as to clarify its language, thereby to make more plain the patentable subject matter of the present invention relative to the prior art.

A brief description of the operation of the present device will make these distinctions clear.

In the drawings, for simplicity, the workings of the injector 1 (Figures 3, 4 and 5) have not been shown, but rather the injector has been indicated totally by the cross-hatching. The region indicated at 4 is a sliding trigger (with a finger grip formation) which is slid down, relative to the rest of the injector 1 in order to actuate the injector so as to cause a dose to be ejected through the needle 2. The injector 1 incorporates it own operating mechanism, including a spring to cause a plunger to be forced into a sleeve which holds the dose to be injected. The injector 1 is, therefore, a stand-alone item.

The invention is concerned just with the enclosure for this injector device within an outer casing which acts as a firing device for the injector. When the button 34 of the firing device is pressed, the first action is movement which would cause the independent injector body to move forwardly so as to bring the needle 2 outside the casing 7 (by virtue of the action of the spring 24, whilst compressing the weaker spring 17). However, when movement of the injector is stopped by the locator ring 15 abutting the rib 12, the pressure of the spring 24 then acts

(through the locator 23) to move the sliding trigger 4 of the injector forward so that an internal spring of the injector is then released to cause the internal plunger to force the dose out of the capsule within the injector.

The device of BECHTOLD relied upon in the Official Action is essentially just the stand-alone injector mechanism provided, in this case, with a trigger (clip 11) for operation of the injector. There is no totally separate firing device (which is the subject of the present invention) surrounding this injector. In claim 1 of this application, the basic construction of the injector itself is defined in the first four lines (i.e., the words "an injector having ... against a resistance"). The firing device is a totally separate body from the injector, and surrounds the injector and indeed does not form part of the claimed invention. The latter part of the claim makes it clear that the firing device acts firstly to cause the needle to be projected from the cylindrical housing and then to operate the sliding trigger of the injector so as to trigger the injector to eject the dose. Clearly this structural combination for the firing device itself is quite different from BECHTOLD, which essentially comprises just the injector and does not have the external firing device.

As claim 1 as now amended makes clear this distinction, it is believed that it is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, BECHTOLD. Reconsideration of the rejection involving

BECHTOLD and allowance of the application are accordingly believed to be in order and the same are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By 

Robert J. Patch
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 521-2297

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims were amended as follows:

--1. (amended) A firing device for an injector having a barrel-like body with a sliding trigger on one side to eject the dose from a needle at its forward end, the action of the trigger being forwards against a resistance, the firing device comprising a generally cylindrical housing for the injector, a forward portion of the housing, open at its forward end for projection of the injector needle, containing a locator spring [means] for exerting a light rearward force on the injector to cause the needle to be located within said housing, and a rearward portion of the housing having an axially movable, forward spring-loaded actuating member to cooperate with the injector trigger, an external cocking mechanism operable to energise the spring loading of said member, and an operating element to release that loading to cause the actuating member first, acting through the injector trigger, to shoot the injector forward against the light rearward force of said locator spring to a needle projecting position, and then to overcome said resistance in the injector and operate the injector trigger to eject the dose from the injector.—

--2. (amended) A firing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring-loaded member is generally tubular to embrace the injector, a coil spring acting between its rear end and an internal abutment at the rear end of the [barrel] housing.--

--5. (amended) A firing device as claimed in claim [5] 4, wherein the sleeve carries the operating element which can only register in a position to release the snap engagement when the sleeve is moved forwards again after the device has been cocked.--